

11-1961

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: November Sermons

Herald of Truth

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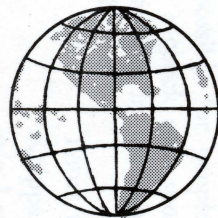
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HERALD

CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU WITH THE



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TRUTH

RADIO
SERMONS
•
NOVEMBER
1961

RA. 510-513

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

North Uvalde, Texas

June 10, 1961

Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren:

Your program, The Herald of Truth, reaches many souls that have never had the opportunity of hearing a good gospel sermon, and we here at Knippa would like to have a small part in helping to keep it possible for people to hear the truth. We shall strive to send you a check each month.

Hoping you much success in the work and may the Lord's richest blessings be with you.

Yours truly,

Knippa Church of Christ

c/o Lester Gilliland

Box 703, N. Uvalde, Texas

Tucson, Arizona

To Whom it may concern:

I have had four of the instructive booklets you publish. Could you please send me the one entitled, "The Suffering of Mankind." They have helped me a lot to understand what you teach from the Bible.

If I got in touch with a local church of Christ here at Tucson do you think someone could please come and see me at my home. I have been a _____ and for the past two years have been idle and not studying the Bible as I should because I feel the _____ are not what I have been searching for, although I received a fairly good knowledge of God's Word from my association with them.

Help I need so badly, because I feel a great empty void within me not being able to study God's Word with others and then fulfilling what is required by the word to practice in my daily life.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. C. S. F.

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

9-8-61

Dear Christian Folks:

Enclosed you will find \$5.00 which is so little to help with so wonderful and fine program. Wish I could do more.

Yours in Christian faith,
Mrs. W. A. E.
Crowley, Texas

Leachville, Ark.

Oct. 8, 1961

Dear Sirs:

Would you please send me a copy of Program 504? I look forward to Sunday mornings and the HERALD OF TRUTH. I am without a doubt hearing some of the best preaching on that program that I have heard in my almost forty years in the church.

Thanking you in advance, I am

A sister in Christ,
Mrs. E. G. F.

Highland Church of Christ

Abilene, Texas

Gentlemen:

Approximately two months prior to this date, I wrote to you and requested 3 copies of a certain program lesson which I heard delivered by Bro. Baxter and as a direct result of this forceful message plus some teaching and explanation, my wife and I were able to bring an otherwise lost soul to Christ. This sister had been a member of the _____ Church for some forty years and had never been baptized.

Please send one or two copies of Program No. 503. We intend to use the same technique on _____ whose life story with respect to religious belief and practice is equally tragic. I shall inform you of our progress in my next request.

Respectfully yours,
F. O. G.
Los Angeles 2, Calif.

STATIONS CARRYING HERALD OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAMS

City	Station	Ch.	Time	City	Station	Ch.	Time
ALABAMA				LOUISIANA			
Birmingham	WBRC	6	5:05 a.m. (Wed.)	New Orleans	WVUE	13	11:00 a.m.
Mobile	WALA	10	9:00 a.m.	Shreveport	KSLA	12	8:00 a.m.
ALASKA				MICHIGAN			
Juneau	KINY	8	1:30 p.m.	Detroit	CKLW	9	8:30 a.m.
ARIZONA				MINNESOTA			
Tucson	KOLD	13	10:15 a.m.	Mankato	WEYC	12	
CALIFORNIA				MISSISSIPPI			
Eureka	KCIQ	6	10:00 a.m.	Greenwood	WABG	6	3:30 p.m.
Fresno	KJEO	47	9:00 a.m.	Jackson	WJTV	12	10:00 a.m.
Los Angeles	KTLA	5	8:30 a.m.	Meridian	WTOK	11	12:00 p.m. (Sat.)
San Francisco	KGO	7	9:00 a.m.	MISSOURI			
Redding	KVIP	7	10:00 a.m.	Cape			
San Jose	KNTV	11	11:30 a.m.	Girardeau	KFVS	12	8:30 a.m.
COLORADO				Jefferson City	KRCG	13	2:00 p.m.
Denver	KBTB	9	9:00 a.m.	Springfield	KYTV	3	8:30 a.m.
Gr. Junction	KREX	5	10:00 a.m.	NEBRASKA			
FLORIDA				North Platte	KNOP	2	12:30 p.m.
Fort Meyers	WINK	11	10:30 a.m.	NORTH CAROLINA			
Orlando	WLOF	9	1:00 p.m.	Asheville	WISE	62	6:30 p.m. (Sat.)
Panama City	WJHG	7	5:30 p.m. (Sat.)	Greensboro	WFMY	2	1:00 p.m.
IDAHO				Willington	WECT	6	12:00 p.m.
Boise	KBOI	2	8:30 a.m.	NORTH DAKOTA			
Twin Falls	KLIX	11	2:00 p.m.	Williston	KUMV	8	4:00 p.m.
ILLINOIS				Bismark	KFYR	5	9:30 a.m.
Harrisburg	WSIL	3	1:30 p.m. (Wed.)	OKLAHOMA			
Quincy	WGEM	10	11:00 a.m.	Oklah. City	KWTV	9	8:30 a.m.
INDIANA				OREGON			
Ft. Wayne	WPTA	21	12:00 p.m.	Medford	KBES		
KANSAS				Portland	KPTV	12	8:30 a.m.
Topeka	WIBW	13	8:30 a.m.	Klamath Falls	KOTI		
KENTUCKY							
Louisville	WAVE	3	10:00 a.m.				

STATIONS CARRYING HERALD OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAMS

City	Station Ch.	Time	City	Station Ch.	Time
PENNSYLVANIA			VIRGINIA		
Johnstown	WJAC	6 10:00 a.m.	Petersburg	WXEX	8
			Portsmouth	WAVY	10 9:30 a.m.
SOUTH CAROLINA			WASHINGTON		
Charleston	WUSN	2 12:00 p.m.	Richland	KEPR	19
SOUTH DAKOTA			Yakima	KNDO	23
Aberdeen	KXAB	9 5:30 p.m.	Spokane	KREM	2 11:30 a.m.
TENNESSEE			WEST VIRGINIA		
Chattanooga	WRGP	3 9:00 a.m.	Bluefield	WHIS	6 9:15 a.m.
Johnson City	WJHL	11 11:00 a.m.			(Fri.)
			Clarksburg	WBOY	(Sat.)
TEXAS			WYOMING		
Amarillo	KVII	7 1:30 p.m.	Casper	KTWO	2 4:00 p.m.
El Paso	KELP	13 2:30 p.m.	CANADA		
Sherman	KXII	12 5:00 p.m.	Saulte Ste. Marie,		
		(Sat.)	Ontario	CJIC	9:00 a.m.

This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.
Check your local newspaper or television station for times not listed.
All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

FROM MISSOURI

Purdy, Mo.
August 13, 1961
P. O. Box 69

Dear Brothers in Christ,

My husband and I would like to be enrolled in one of your Bible Correspondence Courses.

We watch Herald of Truth every Sunday morning over K.Y.T.V. in Springfield, Mo. The program is very helpful to us and I know it is to many more.

There is a lady here in Purdy who is not a member of the church, but she watches the program and said that it was one of the best ones she had ever seen, she even calls her neighbors and friends and tells them to watch it but so far we haven't been able to get her to come to services.

We are taking a course from the Southwest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. It is "Studies in the Bible." It is very good.

Sincerely,
Mrs. J. B.

IS JESUS A MAGIC WORD?

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 510

November 5, 1961

The subject just announced may seem to you rather strange. You may be wondering if I am using this precious name in irreverence, but I assure you that I am in no way using it to reflect upon it in such a manner. When the lesson shall have ended, I trust you may be able to understand and to appreciate why this title. As you know, you who have been listening regularly to my lessons, I have been studying with you the newly born theory that there is but one person in the Godhead, and that is the person of Jesus. It is argued therefore that we should not baptize for the purpose designated in Matthew 28:18-20 "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" but in "Jesus' name only" for He is the only person in the Deity. The theory denies the existence of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit, as separate and distinct persons in the Godhead, which make up Deity. If you did not hear my discussions on this particular part of this lesson then if you will write for a copy of those lessons we shall be happy to mail them to you.

JESUS CHRIST, THE MEANING AND USAGES

I introduce my lesson with the reading of Acts 19:13-15 where your Bible says, "Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits, the NAME of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so, and the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" Here these seven men seemed to think that in the "name Jesus" there was some "magic power." Believing this, they called over His name and by His name commanded the evil spirits to come out of people. Instead of the evil spirits coming out of the people, they leaped on them and they fled the city. This is the same principle that seized the heart of Simon the sorcerer in Acts, chapter 8. When he saw that by the "laying on of the apostles' hands" they could perform these miracles, Simon desired such power that "on whomsoever he laid his hands, he might receive the Holy Spirit." He offered them money for such magical power. It seems that today a similar power is attached to the name, Jesus, which name is found given to Christ in Matthew 1:21. This name, this theory sets apart as the name of the Godhead, which name is thought to possess "all power in heaven and in earth," not to the exclusion of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, but to the extermination of them as separate personalities.

JUST A NAME

Let us study the name, Jesus, for a moment. It means "saviour." Of itself it has no divine significance. Any one who rescues you is a "jesus," written with a small "j." The word is derived from the Hebrew word, Jehoshua, and from this word have come the words Joshua, and Jesus for they all mean the same thing. So, when in Matthew chapter 1, they named Him Jesus, this was the name of a person. Not every Jesus in the Bible had been given the authority to do such things as Jesus of Nazareth.

DIFFERENT JESUSES

Since there were more than one Jesus, there had to be distinguishing features that we may know which one is under consideration. In Acts 13:6 we find one called "Barjesus." Again in Colossians 4:11 we read "And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision." These, together with Matthew 1:21 show definitely that there were a number of people called "Jesus," simply signifying a person. Now evidently it is not the Jesus of Acts 13, nor of Colossians 4 that we are interested in, but the one of Matthew 1, which is Jesus of Nazareth. This truth we have now established: There is no "magic power" in the word Jesus. Any power or authority possessed by any person named Jesus must be given to him personally. It adheres in the person, not just the name!

TRUTH BEYOND QUESTION

That you may now know beyond question that "in his name" does mean by "his power" or authority, I read to you from Acts 4:7 where your Bible says, "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" Here both expressions, "by what power" and, "by what name" are in the verse. This beyond all power of refutation establishes the facts given by me in these lessons that the expression "in the name of," simply means "by the power or authority of" and is not trying to establish some certain given name as they try to force in Acts 2:38. In Acts 3:16 it reads, "And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know." Does this mean faith in the magic word "Jesus" has made this man whole? or does it mean that faith in the power possessed by this particular person called "Jesus," as contrasted with the others called Jesus, has been able to heal him?

IN PAUL'S NAME

That you may see this truth in action, such action that we cannot miss, I invite your attention to a reading found in I Corinthians 1:13. The church at Corinth was being divided into warring factions. Some

were following Apollos, some Cephas, some Paul, while others said they were of Christ. Paul then asks this question: "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized IN THE NAME OF PAUL? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius: lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name." What does he mean here? Simply that they might think Paul had baptized by his own authority, or power and not by the power or authority of Christ. This is exactly what is meant in Acts 2:38 where it reads "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ." It simply means "by his power or by his authority." It has not the slightest intention of establishing a theory that baptism is to be administered in the "name of Jesus only." It means by His authority, for "all power, or authority had been given unto Him both in heaven and in earth," Matthew 28:18-20. Yes, Peter is speaking of "authority" of "power" and not some specific name that must be used as a formula in baptism.

DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS

Let us now study the different expressions used when people were commanded to be baptized. Let us see if they used them exactly alike in every baptism. Reading from your King James Version we have in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ" not "Jesus only." In Acts 10:48 it reads, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." In Acts 19:5 your Bible says, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" not "Jesus only." Here we have three different formulas all meaning the same thing; "by the authority of Jesus Christ." In these is described the reason why it was to be by His authority. Now please listen to this! Acts 2:38 is in the "name of Jesus Christ." Why are the names of "Jesus Christ" and not just "Jesus only" used? Christ means "Anointed of God." In Acts 10:48 the expression "name of the Lord" simply would mean "ruler," hence they were to be baptized by the authority of the rightful ruler. In Acts 19:5 the expression, "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" denotes a specific Lord by whose power you are to be baptized; Jesus of Nazareth was that Lord. You will recall now that in Acts 2:36 your Bible declares that "God had made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye have crucified." Here we have established the Jesus by whose authority we are baptized. When Paul was giving account of his conversion, the record of which is found in Acts 22, we read in verse 8 these words, "And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth." Now when you ask "By which Jesus" are you to be baptized, the answer is quite simple, by the person "Lord Jesus" because He is Lord; by the person "Jesus Christ," because He is God's anointed; by the person who is Lord because He is "King of kings and Lord of lords" and therefore possesses "all power in heaven and in earth" (I Timothy 6:15 and Matthew 28:18). This is all the expression means

in Acts 2:38 when it says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you IN THE NAME OF Jesus Christ." It simply means by His authority and nothing else. Now the difference in the expressions "in or into the name of" as found in Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 2:38 is very definite. Matthew 28 means "into the fellowship of," "possession of"; Acts 2:38 means "by the authority of." It is this easily understood. From this we must know that there was no "magic power" in the "name of Jesus." The power was given to the person Jesus described in your Bible as Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord Jesus, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. To Him has been delegated by Deity itself "all power." Again, I quote to you for your remembrance Acts 4:7 where it shows beyond all refutation that "in the name of" means "by what power." It reads, "And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what POWER, or by what NAME, have ye done this?" Here "by what power" and "by what name" are both in this verse separated by only a comma, establishing beyond all question that one means the other. So when you say a thing is done "in the name of" some one, you simply mean that it is done "by that person's authority," by his "power." This correctly understood and destroyed is this newly born theory of "baptized in the name of Jesus only" for this theory eliminates the Father and the Holy Spirit in man's conversion. God, which simply means Deity, as usually found in your Bible, is a plural word, or expression, meaning more than one personality. Therefore, to do things in the "name of Jesus only" destroys the very meaning of the word "God" in your Bible. You will recall that in Genesis 1:26 it reads, "let US make man in OUR own image," and in John 14:23 we read, "If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and WE will come unto him, and make OUR abode with him." Here again it is plain to see that there is more than just "one" in the Godhead; that there is more than just "Jesus only" as this theory denies, else language has no meaning. Should I say, WE will come to see you and make OUR abode with you, I think you would make preparation for more than one person. Common sense is common sense anywhere you find it, whether in the Bible or out. "We" and "our" can only mean a plurality. Why continue to argue the theory of "Jesus only" trying to eliminate the Father and the Holy Spirit from the Godhead or from Deity when the Bible specifically mentions all three of them and uses the masculine pronoun "He" in referring to each of them, giving them distinctive personalities?

THE ALL IMPORTANT QUESTION

As I bring this series of discussions to a close, I now come to the all-important question; Did the apostles obey the Lord's command to "go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" or did they refuse this command? Is this the same baptism of Mark 16:16? If so, this baptism was to

be to "every creature in all the world." Placing Matthew 28 and Mark 16 together we have the Lord commanding them to go to "every creature" in "every nation," in "all the world," and "until the end of the world," teaching them to "believe and be baptized" that they might be "saved." Where was this Great Commission ever obeyed if not from Acts 2:38 to the close of the New Testament? My good people, this is what Peter was doing in Acts 2:38. Peter was baptizing by the "authority of Jesus Christ" and by His authority they were commanded specifically to "baptize them in (or into) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" not into the name of "Jesus only" that they might sustain the "proper fellowship" to all three and become the possession of Deity. Now, if they were not baptized as commanded in Matthew 28, they never sustained the proper fellowship with the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit; they never became the "possession of God." When they baptized them by the authority of Jesus Christ, or when we today baptize by the authority of Jesus Christ, we have to baptize with the baptism of Matthew 28:18-20 else those baptized live and die out of the fellowship with "God," out of the fellowship with Deity! This is the truth, my dear friends, of Matthew 28 and Acts 2:38. Now, this being true, then baptism is absolutely essential to man's salvation, for without it there is no fellowship with God, with Deity. No fellowship with Deity and man is lost. Our trouble is simply this: The world is confused over some specific formula during the act of baptism. In the Bible they were taught the truth about baptism, that it is "into the proper fellowship of Deity," of God, that it was for the "remission of sins," that they might be "saved," "added to the church." Then upon properly understanding this they demanded baptism and not one example of baptism where a "specific formula" was ever "said." So when we baptize today "in the name of Jesus Christ" we do it by His authority and His authority gave Matthew 28:18-20. Churches of Christ express this authority and this relationship by using Matthew 28:18-20 when we baptize. We had better abide by it rather than trying to make some "Magic Name" out of the personal name Jesus. May the Lord bless and keep you is my prayer in His name: Yes, by His authority I pray.

QUESTION

From Canada comes this question:

"Why don't you preach salvation instead of condemning the dance? I know several Protestant churches in this big city that sponsor dances."

ANSWER

Churches of Christ, I am proud to say, oppose drinking, gambling, and dancing all. In Galatians 5:19 we have this reading, "The works

of the flesh are manifest, which are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lasciviousness." Then in verse 21 your Bible reads, "murders, drunkenness, revelings and such like." Now what is their fate? Same verse, "Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Now lasciviousness means anything that tends to stir lewd emotions. Holding the opposite sex close to your body too often stirs these lewd emotions. This meaning of revelings and such like, include all parties that run wild with drinking, dancing and gambling. This is its meaning. Now you may teach your young people that it is all right to drink, dance, and gamble, but as for churches of Christ, we are determined to teach our young people the Bible answer that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. This is preaching salvation. Now do you believe your Bible? Or do you depend on the traditions of men? We believe the Bible!

Cypress Inn, Tenn.
September 6, 1961

Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Have been contributing five dollars monthly for the radio program for some time but am sending an extra dollar to help with the saving of precious souls. Have already sent my contribution for September but am sending this extra. As long as I am able I want to continue to help. The radio program is wonderful and has been a great blessing to me. I have learned the most I know about the Bible from the radio broadcast.

Have never got to see the T.V. Will continue to send five dollars monthly as long as I am able and more when I can. Am an old woman past three score and ten but I do love to hear the gospel.

May God bless you always in helping carry the gospel to lost souls.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. L. E. H.

LOVE — THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 511

November 12, 1961

For my lesson today I have chosen the subject, "Love, the Hope of the World." I, with all my heart, believe that true, Christian love is the only hope for our world today or any day; this age or any age. I believe I shall be able to show in the lesson today that love, as taught in the Bible, would heal our wounds, and drive away the clouds of fear. It would cause the sunshine of hope to burst forth upon our land, yea the lands throughout the vast expanse of our universe in such rapturous splendor that we could say with the prophet of old, "The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands," Isaiah 55:12. We could sing with the sweet singer of Israel, "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh to judge the earth," Psalms 96:11-13. Love could transform this old world of ours into a paradise more radiant with beauty than the ancient Garden of Eden. It is love that can keep alive the glow of youth in the hearts of mothers and that can relax a father tired and hungry as he comes home at the close of the day. It is the power that lights the spark of contentment; that brings forth joy and laughter in a Christian community; and it is love that brightens the family altar where happy, contented children are permitted to grow up in the midst of a peaceful home, fitted to cope with the problems that must confront them as they walk the pathway of life. They will not walk it alone if they have truly known love in their home, in the community, and in the church. Love comes not from any and every heart. It emanates only from hearts that are tender, kind, and understanding. The absence of love is the cause of all our troubles which alienate men and nations. This being true then "Love, true love, Is the Hope of the World." It is the hope of your life, of your home, of your community, of our nation, yes, of our world. Let us bind our hearts together this day to help if possible, to bring about a condition of this earth during our lifetime, where we may join with the prophet Isaiah in chapter 49 and verse 25, singing this song of hope, "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." Are you willing to strive toward this end rather than toward the total destruction of the human race? Then listen to Paul's immortal chapter on "love," I Corinthians 13. Commit it to memory and let it be your guiding

star as you walk among your fellow men and as you strive to guide your home. It can't fail you!

I CORINTHIANS 13

The church at Corinth was having trouble. Paul was concerned about them and wrote this letter, hoping to save this great church. In chapter one, they were divided; one of Paul, another of Cephas, another of Apollos, some said they were of Christ. Heaven placed its stamp of condemnation upon religious division here in the first century.

They, also, had fornication the like of which would not have been allowed even among the heathens. They were going to law with each other. Not one wise man was to be found among them who merited the love and esteem of them, it seemed to such a degree that he could settle their differences; and they were disgracing the church of the Lord before the world. They were void of compassion one for another, it seemed, and used their liberties to the destruction of the weaker brethren. They were turning the supper that was given to commemorate the death of our Lord 'til His glorious return, into a drunken feast and were gathering into clicks and clans, to the humiliation of the poor among them. Each one seemed to think himself a little better than the other in that one was given power to perform one part of the Lord's work while another could perform another. They were acting like children just as many homes, communities, and churches are doing right now. Many of these differences were brought about by the selfish desires of men to have their way. While we think of the church in Corinth as being a church filled with sin, yet it is not much different from the average congregation today. It is not much different from the average community in which you and I live. Too many of our homes are torn and bleeding because of the lack of love in that home. They and we were and are just human beings.

CHAPTER APPLIED

Paul write chapter 13 that he might correct all their ills and bring them back into fellowship with each other and with God, those who were away from God. This letter tells the condition of this church; listen to it. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." Great must have been some of their speakers, or at least they must have thought so. So great that they felt they could speak as "never man spake." Paul is telling them that such eloquence if it is based not upon love, though it may transcend the orators of this earth and equal the voice of angels above, it is but the voice of hypocrisy and he who felt himself so great might

as well be striking against the brass or beating the clanging cymbals. No man of honor, no Christian gentleman tries to project himself above his fellows for the sake of self-exaltation. He is a Christian gentleman always in his attitude toward his fellow preachers and strives to bring them up in the estimation of his hearers to the place where he so humbly covets to merit as a true servant of God, humbly grateful if he is blessed with the ability to speak with the tongue of an orator, a blessing so few of us possess.

VERSE 2

In verse two Paul says, "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love I am nothing." They were blessed with these various gifts as we found in chapter 12, and from this we see they were sinfully proud of their gifts. Paul tells them, no matter what your gift, if you do not perform your duty because of love you are nothing; you are a hypocrite.

VERSE 3

Then in verse three we read, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing." Yes, there are men who for praise will give of their means. Write their names above the door and you may have their thousands or maybe their millions. Erase their names, and place in their stead the name of Him who died on Calvary, who came to save the giver's life, and he gives but a few paltry dollars to the cause for which his Master died. This man's gifts, says your Bible, profiteth him nothing. Those who have the right to know, tell us that there were two words, either of which could have been used here for love. One was the word for love, implying the love that springs from sensual passion, dyed so deeply in the heathen practices, seeking its own personal glory and satisfaction, that it was not capable of expressing the holy and lofty motives that the Spirit of God wished to picture here by the apostle to us. The other word for love was a word that pictured to us a different motive for our actions. It was the word fitly suited to describe the life of a Christian, expressing love of esteem, a tenderness attuned to that which is sacred in its nature, born only in the bosom of a religion revealed from heaven, producing a reverence unknown to and incapable of understanding by those who know not the love of Christ in their hearts. It is a word unstained by the sins of man. No other word could be used than such a word to picture so pure a motive as that the Spirit of God wished to picture to poor selfish man. This was a great beginning if the troubles cursing the

church at Corinth were to be removed. This unselfish spirit alive and active in the hearts of men, the world over, and we need no armies to police the world, nor would we spend billions, trying to protect our world from an atomic holocaust. These three verses, correctly understood and carried out in our homes, in our communities, in the churches, and in our world would so transform our world that man would fear to die lest there be nothing better over there. Let us pray now for this kind of love, a love unscarred by sinful desires, that we may pillow our heads in peaceful sleep, knowing our children will be able to build their homes in a paradise on earth.

LOVE KNOWN BY ITS ACTIONS

In the following verses for today we are to see further into the nature of this great church. It was cursed by personalities. Why did Paul write this letter if they were not guilty of these sins and if he were not trying to help them to correct these mistakes that they might be happy here and saved after a while? Have you ever studied this chapter, understanding Paul was writing to them, giving to them the only remedy for their hatreds, for their jealousies, for their childish ways? How wonderfully it applies to us two thousand years this side! Here is why the Spirit guided him to write about this great "love," the "Hope of the World."

HOW COULD THIS FAIL?

Should you ask me to give a definition of love as here used, I feel there is no definition great enough to describe the word the Spirit gave us endeavoring to show us what Christian love is. It is described, but not defined.

VERSES 4-6

With verse 4 we begin the reading that so beautifully pictures the strength of love, Bible love. "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not, vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." My friends, let us stop here for just a moment. The love Paul is picturing to them is positively void of all selfishness and is a love that thinks of others. Just think of a love like this! A love where patience with others is a virtue; a love that is always kind to your fellow-man; a love that is never egotistic, never feels itself better than others; a love that is humble but never compromises with wrong. Visualize nations around a conference table; church leaders praying over the problems of the church that it may be strong; homes guided by the great truths of verse 5, "doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." How could there be anything but peace, joy, and happiness overflowing

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
ALABAMA					
Anniston	WHMA	8:30 p.m.	San Bernardino	KCKC	8:30 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	8:30 p.m.	San Diego	KGB	8:30 p.m.
Bay Minette	WBAC	12:30 p.m.	San Francisco	KGO	7:30 p.m.
Birmingham	WATV	8:30 a.m.	Stockton	KWG	8:30 p.m.
Clanton	WKLF	2:30 p.m.	Turlock	KTUR	8:30 p.m.
Decatur	WAJF	1:05 p.m.	Ukiah	KMSL	8:35 a.m.
Dothan	WOOF	12:35 p.m.	COLORADO		
Eufaula	WULA	5:35 p.m.	Denver	KBTR	7:30 a.m.
Flomaton	WTCB	8:30 a.m.	CONNECTICUT		
Florence	WOWL	8:30 p.m.	Putnam	WINY	6:35 p.m.
Foley	WHEP	1:00 p.m.	Torrington	WTOR	6:35 p.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	8:30 p.m.	FLORIDA		
Haleyville	WJBB	5:35 p.m.	Fort Pierce	WARN	7:45 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	8:00 a.m.	Jacksonville	WPDQ	8:30 a.m.
Sylacauga	WFEB	4:35 p.m.	Milton	WSRA	
Talladega	WJHB	1:00 p.m.	New Smyrna		
		(Sat.)	Beach	WSBB	6:35 p.m.
Troy	WTBF	5:35 p.m.	Ocala	WTMC	5:35 p.m.
ALASKA					
Fairbanks	KFRB	8:30 a.m.	Sebring	WSEB	
Sitka	KIFW	9:00 p.m.	Tampa-St.		
		(Wed.)	Petersburg	WSUN	7:30 a.m.
ARIZONA					
Flagstaff	KCLS	8:05 a.m.	Winter Haven	WSIR	5:35 p.m.
ARKANSAS					
Berryville	KTCN	6:30 a.m.	Homestead	WSDB	
Blytheville	KLCN	8:30 a.m.	Ft. Lauderdale	WWIL	
Camden	KAMD	5:35 p.m.	GEORGIA		
Corning	KCCB	1:30 p.m.	Bremen	WWCC	8:30 a.m.
Helena	KFFA	5:35 p.m.	Cartersville	WBHF	5:35 p.m.
Jonesboro	KBTM	5:35 p.m.	Cordele	WMJM	6:35 p.m.
Little Rock	KARK	5:30 p.m.	Fitzgerald	WBHB	6:35 p.m.
McGehee	KVSA	9:00 a.m.	Griffin	WKEU	8:05 a.m.
Prescott	KTPA		Hinesville	WGML	1:30 p.m.
Siloam Springs	KUOA	5:35 p.m.	La Grange	WLAG	9:00 a.m.
CALIFORNIA					
Bakersfield	KPMC	10:00 a.m.	Savanah	WBYG	5:35 p.m.
Bakersfield	KMAP		Rome	WLAQ	9:30 p.m.
Calexico	KICO		Thomson	WTWA	6:35 p.m.
Chico	KPAY	7:35 a.m.	West Point	WRLD	9:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KABC	8:00 p.m.	IDAHO		
Napa	KVON	3:35 p.m.	Albion	KMVC	
Needles	KSFE	7:00 a.m.	Idaho Falls	KID	8:00 a.m.
		(Wed.)	Nampa	KFXD	1:30 p.m.
ILLINOIS					
			Rupert	KAYT	9:00 a.m.
			Sand Point	KSPT	9:00 a.m.
			Springfield	WCVS	8:30 p.m.

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
INDIANA			MISSOURI		
Boonville	WBNI	5:35 p.m.	Branson	KBHM	
Lafayette	WASK	9:05 a.m.	Cape		
North Vernon	WOCH	8:30 a.m.	Girardeau	KFVS	7:30 a.m.
Vincennes	WAOV	5:35 p.m.	Clinton	KDKD	
IOWA			Dexter	KDEX	9:00 a.m.
Fort Dodge	KVFD	8:05 a.m.	Joplin	WMBH	4:35 p.m.
KENTUCKY			Kansas City	KCMO	8:30 a.m.
Frankfort	WFKY	6:35 p.m.	Rolla	KTTR	1:00 p.m.
Henderson	WSON	7:00 a.m.	St. Louis (FM)	KEMO	1:35 p.m.
Hopkinsville	WKOA	7:15 a.m.	MONTANA		
Mayfield	WNGO	7:30 a.m.	Anaconda	KANA	8:05 a.m.
Paducah	WPAD	8:30 a.m.	Lewistown	KXLO	4:30 p.m.
Paintsville	WSIP	6:35 p.m.	Wolf Point	KVCK	3:35 p.m.
Pikesville	WPKE	7:05 p.m.	NEBRASKA		
Somerset	WSFC	6:35 p.m.	Kearney	KGFV	8:05 a.m.
LOUISIANA			McCook	KBRL	4:35 p.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	8:30 p.m.	Omaha	KMEO	8:00 a.m.
Winnfield	WVCL	8:00 a.m.	Scottsbluff	KNEB	9:00 a.m.
MARYLAND			Valentine	KVHS	8:30 a.m.
Hagerstown	WJEJ	9:30 p.m.	NEVADA		
MASSACHUSETTS			Reno	KBET	8:30 p.m.
Fall River	WALE	6:35 p.m.	NEW HAMPSHIRE		
Gardner	WGAW	6:35 p.m.	Keene	WKNE	1:05 p.m.
MICHIGAN			Nashua		
Detroit	WXYZ	10:00 p.m.	Manchester	WSMN	9:30 p.m.
Escanaba	WDBC	8:30 p.m.	Portsmouth	WBBX	8:00 a.m.
Ludington	WKLA	9:30 p.m.	NEW MEXICO		
Muskegon	WKBZ	9:30 p.m.	Artesia	KSVP	6:35 p.m.
MINNESOTA			Grants	KMIN	4:35 p.m.
Duluth	WQMN	5:35 p.m.	Roswell	KGFL	3:35 p.m.
Eveleth	WEVE	5:35 p.m.	Silver City	KSIL	4:35 p.m.
MISSISSIPPI			NEW YORK		
Centerville	WGLC	8:00 a.m.	Corning	WCLI	6:35 p.m.
Clarksdale	WROX	5:35 p.m.	Malone	WICY	6:35 p.m.
Greenville	WJPR	5:35 p.m.	Massena	WMSA	9:30 p.m.
Greenwood	WABG	4:30 p.m.	New York	WABC	9:30 p.m.
Jackson	WJDX	9:30 p.m.	Saranac Lake	WNBZ	9:30 p.m.
Natchez	WNAT	2:00 p.m.	NORTH CAROLINA		
Vicksburg	WQBC	5:35 p.m.	Belmont	WCGC	6:35 p.m.
			Durham	WTIK	9:30 p.m.
			Fuquay Spgs.	WFVG	5:35 p.m.
			Gastonia	WGNC	9:30 p.m.

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
GOLDSBORO			ST. MARY'S		
Goldsboro	WFMC	1:00 p.m.	St. Mary's	WKBI	6:35 p.m.
Hender-			Scranton	WICK	7:35 p.m.
sonville	WHKP	2:30 p.m.	Tyrone		
Lenoir	WJRI	5:35 p.m.	Altoona	WTRN	7:35 a.m.
Mt. Airy	WSYD	5:35 p.m.	Washington	WJPA	8:35 a.m.
Reidsville	WFRC	9:30 p.m.	Wellsboro	WNBT	6:35 p.m.
Roanoke			Wilkes Barre	WILK	9:30 p.m.
Rapids	WCBT	6:35 p.m.	Williamsport	WMPT	9:30 p.m.
Rocky Mount	WEED	9:30 p.m.	SOUTH CAROLINA		
Wilson	WGTM	6:35 p.m.	Bennettsville	WBSC	6:35 p.m.
NORTH DAKOTA			Charleston	WOKE	4:35 p.m.
Devil's Lake	KDLR	4:35 p.m.	Georgetown	WGTM	5:35 p.m.
Grand Forks	KILO	1:00 p.m.	Hartselle	WHSC	5:35 p.m.
Minot	KLPM	5:35 p.m.	Orangeburg	WDIX	9:30 p.m.
Oakes	KEYD	4:35 p.m.	Rock Hill	WRHI	6:35 p.m.
OHIO			SOUTH DAKOTA		
Dover	WJER	7:00 p.m.	Huron	KIJV	5:35 p.m.
Ironton	WIRO	6:35 p.m.	Mitchell	KORN	4:35 p.m.
			Watertown	KWAT	5:35 p.m.
OKLAHOMA			TENNESSEE		
Ardmore	KVSO	8:30 p.m.	Athens	WLAR	5:35 p.m.
Enid	KCRC	8:30 p.m.	Columbia	WKRM	1:30 p.m.
Lawton	KSVO	9:05 p.m.	Dayton	WDNT	4:30 p.m.
McAlester	KNED	1:30 p.m.	Fayetteville	WEKR	6:35 p.m.
Poteau	KLCO	1:00 p.m.	Jackson	WTJS	7:30 p.m.
Tulsa	KTUL	8:30 a.m.	Johnson City	WETB	8:05 a.m.
Vinita	KVIN	8:30 p.m.	Lexington	WDXL	1:00 p.m.
Wewoka	KWSH	8:30 p.m.	Livingston	WLIV	5:35 p.m.
OREGON			McMinnville	WBMC	9:00 a.m.
Astoria	KAST	3:35 p.m.	Memphis	WHHM	8:30 p.m.
Coos Bay	KOOS	8:30 p.m.	Morristown	WCRK	9:35 p.m.
Coquille	KWRO	8:30 a.m.	Murfreesboro	WGNS	9:00 a.m.
Eugene	KASH	8:30 p.m.	Nashville	WSIX	9:30 p.m.
Lakeview	KQIK	8:30 a.m.	Oak Ridge	WATO	9:00 a.m.
			Onedia	WBNT	9:00 a.m.
PENNSYLVANIA			TEXAS		
Altoona	WRTA	9:30 p.m.	Abilene	KRBC	8:15 a.m.
Coatsville	WCOJ	5:30 p.m.	Amarillo	KGNC	1:05 p.m.
Huntingdon	WHUN	9:30 a.m.	Bay City	KIOX	5:35 p.m.
Johnstown	WCRO	8:00 a.m.	Big Spring	KBST	6:30 p.m.
Lock Haven	WPBZ	6:35 p.m.	Borger	KHUI	4:35 p.m.
Milton	WMLP	1:00 p.m.	Brownwood	KBWD	5:35 p.m.
			Clarksville	KCAR	8:30 a.m.
					(Sat.)

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
Dallas	KSKY	2:05 p.m.	Walla Walla	KTEL	8:30 p.m.
Eagle Pass	KEPS	9:05 a.m.	Wenatchee	KUEN	10:15 a.m.
Farwell	KZOL				
Graham	KSWA	4:30 p.m.			
Huntsville	KSAM	6:00 p.m.			
Liberty	KWDL				
Littlefield	KZZN				
Longview	KFRO	8:30 p.m.			
Midland	KCRS	1:30 p.m.			
Monahans	KVKM	4:35 p.m.			
Nacogdoches	KEEE	8:30 p.m.			
Pampa	KHHH				
Pampa	KPDN	5:35 p.m.			
Pleasanton	KBOP	8:30 p.m.			
San Angelo	KGKL	8:30 p.m.			
San Antonio	KMAC	8:30 p.m.			
Sherman	KTXO	9:30 a.m.			
Texarkana	KCMC	8:30 p.m.			
Tyler	KTBB	8:30 p.m.			
VERMONT					
Brattleboro	WKVT	1:05 p.m.			
VIRGINIA					
Bristol	WFHG	6:35 p.m.			
Culpeper	WCVA	6:35 p.m.			
Fredericksburg					
	WFVA	8:30 a.m.			
Lynchburg	WLVA	9:30 p.m.			
Radford	WRAD	4:00 p.m.			
Richmond	WMBG	9:30 p.m.			
Waynesboro	WAYB	6:35 p.m.			
WASHINGTON					
Centralia					
Chahalish	KELA	3:35 p.m.			
Mt. Vernon	KBRC	9:30 a.m.			
Omak	KOMW	9:15 a.m.			
Seattle	KTW	9:30 p.m.			
Tacoma	KLAY	9:30 a.m.			
WEST VIRGINIA					
Clarksburg	WHAR	6:35 p.m.			
Logan	WLOG	5:35 p.m.			
Montgomery	WMON	5:35 p.m.			
St. Albans	WKLC	9:30 a.m.			
Williamson	WBTH	6:35 p.m.			
WISCONSIN					
Eau Claire	WBIZ	5:35 p.m.			
Fond du Lac	KFIZ	5:35 p.m.			
Hayward	WHSM	5:35 p.m.			
Madison	WIBA	8:05 a.m.			
Mantiowoc	WOMT	5:35 p.m.			
Reedsburg	WRDB	5:35 p.m.			
Superior	WQMN	5:35 p.m.			
Wausau	WSAU	9:00 a.m.			
WYOMING					
Casper	KTWO	9:15 a.m.			
FOREIGN					
CANADA					
Blind River,					
Ont.	CJNR	10:15 a.m.			
Winnipeg,					
Manitoba	CKY	11:00 p.m.			
BERMUDA					
Pembroke	ZBM	1:30 p.m.			
LIBERIA					
Monrovia	ELBC	4:30 p.m.			
NIGERIA					
Enugu	ENBS	1:30 p.m.			
PHILIPPINES					
Manila	DZAG	7:30 a.m.			
Manila	DZAW	7:30 a.m.			

This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.
All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.
Check your local newspaper or radio station for times not listed.

in the hearts and homes of men? How quickly nations could turn this world into a haven of peaceful rest. Alas, it is not so; we "seek our own," our "own ways," we are "easily provoked" and we begin to "devise evil" against our neighbor. All this the church in Corinth was doing. These are the natural evils that emanate from troubles as we find them in the church at Corinth.

VERSES 6-8

Let us read further of this love that would settle all their troubles and that will save the world. Beginning with verse 6, "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. LOVE NEVER FAILETH." Now, do you love? You fathers, do you love your family the Bible way? You mothers, do you love your family the Bible way? Or are you unkind? Do you speak harshly, cuttingly, scarring the hearts of those in your home? Do you bear with them patiently? Do you try to believe in them? Does hope spring anew in your heart when sorrows come? Are you willing to endure to the end that you may save your companion or your child, or had you so much rather have your way that you berate your family in scathing words, destroying the peace and happiness of the home? As leaders in the church, in the community, in the world conferences, are we so determined to have our own way that no kindness, no patience, no consideration can be found in us for others? Is there no willingness to endure the criticisms of others, no trying to believe in the other man, but rather manifesting selfishness, behaving ourselves not as gentlemen? Do we seek our own always, provoked at every decision not our own, refusing to bear in kindness with others until we have, like the church at Corinth, destroyed all hope of a peaceful home, a peaceful church, or a peaceful world?

NEVER FAILS

No wonder Paul closed with the words, "Love never fails." True love can no more fail than can the Christ, whose very nature Paul has here described in this chapter. If all men under all circumstances would walk as Paul here directs, our troubles would fade as the morning dews with the rising of the sun. The church at Corinth followed the advice of this great man, II Corinthians 7:10 where a "godly sorrow worketh repentance not to be ashamed of" but that brought salvation to their souls. This kind of "Love Was the Hope of Corinth." It is also the hope, yes, the only hope of our world today. As I close, one outstanding thing announced here was this, "love rejoices in truth." When men learn the truth, this love I am discussing will lead them to an acceptance of that truth. This kind of love will bring man to a belief and trust in God that will lead him to repent of his sins and confess his Lord. It will not fight back at the command of Christ

in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:16 where the Lord, our blessed Saviour, commands every creature in all the world, in every nation to be "baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" that he may be "saved." Yes, "Love is truly the hope of the world." May God bless you and keep you, and may this love rule in your hearts and in your homes, is my prayer in His holy name.

QUESTION

"If a woman puts away her husband, is he free to remarry?"

ANSWER

This all depends. The Lord said in Matthew 5:31, "It hath been said, Whosoever putteth away his wife let him give her a writing of divorcement. But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." In I Corinthians 7, verses 10-11, we read "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or become reconciled unto her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

From this it is plain to be seen that adultery and fornication are the only Scriptural grounds for divorce and remarriage. If the man were separated from his wife for this cause, he would have the right to remarry. If his separation was not for this cause and he marries another woman, they are living in spiritual adultery and shall have to cease this adulterous union. Now if the separation be not for this cause, then the Bible commands that they settle their differences and return to each other, lest they be driven into adultery. This is the part of the Bible that has been overlooked. The question again is, "Do we believe our Bible," or are we trying to justify our adulterous unions and our remaining separated rather than trying to adjust our lives in a harmonious manner as the Lord demands of us?"

Osage City, Kansas

Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brothers in Christ,

The enclosed is but a small part of our appreciation of your good work. May God bless you abundantly. We enjoy every sermon or service you put over. No limit as to the good you are doing. Keep up the good work.

O. C. F. & Family

WITHOUT EXCUSE

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 512

November 19, 1961

In Romans, chapter one, is found this reading beginning with verse 18, "For the wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." Then listing a long catalogue of sins practiced by them, the very same practiced today, Paul closes this chapter with these words, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

WITHOUT EXCUSE

The expression found in this reading that shall serve as the subject for this lesson is "they were without excuse." The context of this verse shows to me clearly that they were trying to excuse themselves, as many try to do today, on the grounds that they were not able to understand the "invisible things of God," therefore they had cast aside all knowledge of God and became fools professing themselves to be wise, when from the beginning they had all about them ample proof that there is an "eternal power and Godhead." If they, under an age shrouded in shadows and types were "without excuse" what think you of us today who have the "mystery in other ages" made "known" to us, by the revelation of God, as declared by Paul in Ephesians 3, verses three through six?

WHY THIS CONDITION?

By a thorough examination of this reading in Romans, chapter one, the reason for their degenerate condition is easily determined. In

verse 18, Paul says, "Who hold the truth in unrighteousness" and in verse 25 your Bible reads "Who changed the truth of God into a lie." The inevitable results of changing the truth of God is destruction. This destruction is in direct proportion to the degree people and nations corrupt the revealed word of God, found in the Bible. There is no exception in all the world. One of the ways they had changed this truth into unrighteousness is specifically mentioned here in verse 23 where it declares plainly that they had "changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made in the likeness of man." Nations on earth today that bow before images and false gods made by the hands of men are peoples and nations in hunger, starvation, ignorance, disease, and breeding grounds for Communism, a godless beast before whom men and nations lose their freedom, and the dignity of man perishes. Many nations bowing before such today are nations into which we of the United States have had to pour billions of dollars of our hard earned money to keep them from starving, or from being taken over by godless Communism. Christianity does not subject people to such low standards of living but elevates people and nations to standards of living where men are free men and not in slavery, nor bowed down in fear before any group or groups of men. Our United States is strong with a society and standard of living unknown to the world in any age. Why this? Men came here seeking religious and political freedom based upon the teachings of the Bible without the interference of some religion binding itself upon our free world by living off the taxes of the people. When we change the "truth of God into unrighteousness"; then we shall lose our religious, political, social, and economic freedoms, and the dignity of man shall have been destroyed. We shall become the brainwashed slaves of some religious or political tyrant to serve not mankind for the good of mankind. We shall exist largely, if not entirely, for the selfish glory and power of some tyrannical machine, be that religious or political, that has robbed us of our God-given rights to be free men and nations. That was the result of the continued sins of the nations being reprimanded here by Paul. It was after this that Rome became such a tyrannical power and ushered in what history knows as the "dark ages." Paul said here "knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death" and death the Roman empire suffered. They were "without excuse" for they knew better. They had possessed the truth of God but had done with it as many are doing today, teaching us that we do not have to abide by it; that it is not authoritative, only suggesting a way of life recommended by a few fanatics. Not long ago I visited in the home of a man who scoffed at the Bible as being authoritative, suggesting had Paul lived now, he would not have taught as he then did; that he was being governed by the old Jewish traditions. Men back then were also "wise in their own conceits," Romans 12:16.

WARNED AGAINST

Paul warned us against our becoming just like these; of men who

would corrupt the testament of Christ, the gospel of our Lord, and change it into another gospel which gospel would separate us from Christ. Listen to his words in Galatians 1:6-7, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." This same writer in II Timothy 4:3-4 says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." This same apostle, before the elders of Ephesus delivered that famous but little heeded declaration in which he said, "I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of our own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them, therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

WHY THIS WEEPING PLEA?

My friends, may I ask you, Why this tear-filled plea from this great man of God? Why his warning to the Roman Christians? Why this heart filled, soul pleading letter to Timothy warning him against those who turn from the truth to fables? He told us in Romans, chapter one. He knew the fate of those people and nations who "turned the truth into unrighteousness" and who "changed the truth of God into a lie" that they "were worthy of death." He did not want God's children nor those who were lost to suffer such fate as did those of whom he spoke. The tragedy of them was that they one time had and knew the truth, but after their own "lusts they turned the truth into a lie" and began making "images before whom they bowed," knowing that the Bible said plainly "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, nor serve them." This they knew and yet they made for themselves images and bowed before them turning the incorruptible God into such. This man of God condemned such as he delivered one of the greatest speeches ever delivered through the instrumentality of man, which speech is recorded in Acts 17 where he said to these learned Athenians, verse 23, "I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God" and then concluded by saying in verse 29 "for as much as we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." What had they done? They had changed the truth of God into unrighteousness, into a lie, says your Bible. Paul was begging that Christians not leave the revelation of God to follow men "Professing themselves to be wise" but denying the truth

revealed to us by our Lord. Paul knew that the prophet had said centuries before, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps," Isaiah 10:23; and he was begging that we let God have His way with us.

THE RESULT

Those of Romans, chapter one when leaving the truth went to such an extreme that they committed every sin known to man, the most corrupt, the most vile. Sins I dare not mention over this network. Paul declared that this same thing would happen again as he was pleading with Timothy in II Timothy, chapter two to "make full proof of his ministry," for says your Bible "the time will come when they shall turn away their ears from hearing the truth," just like these mentioned in the Roman letter and that they would also "after their own lusts," "having itching ears," "heap to themselves teachers" who would "turn" them away from the truth unto "fables." This inevitably follows as I have already pointed out to you in this lesson today. Our own nation is following in this path today. We, who are calling the world back to the revelation of God, are laughed at as old fashioned, and fanatics, trying to fasten upon a modern world these old worn-out customs of two thousand years ago. Let me point this out to you: many of the nations on earth today, that are violating these principles, bowing before heathen gods and images made by the hands of men, YOUR MONEY, your HARD EARNED money, money that you and your families need, is being channeled to them by the billions every year. Christianity does not downgrade people this way. It lifts people up. What we need to do is to convert them to Christianity from these idols and heathen gods. Christianity is a WAY OF LIFE. It is the way of life that respects the dignity of man, realizing that he is created in the image of God and owes his loyalty to God and does not become the chattel of some tyrannical power, be that power religious or political; and every nation that history records that has led its people in straying from the Bible, that has led its people into idolatrous worship, whose religious leaders or political bosses have disregarded your Bible, whose people have not been given the privilege of freely reading it for themselves, is a country today that is in trouble. Many of their people are uneducated, are hungry, are cursed with disease, without adequate hospitals, doctors, nurses, and medicine, or are under a tyrannical dictator, having lost their freedom as men.

A CHALLENGE

I issue this challenge to the nations and leaders of those nations, both political and religious: Give the people the Bible. Teach them it is God's word; that it has the authority of heaven behind it with the power to bless those nations and peoples that follow it and the power to curse those who stray from it. Read now Jeremiah 18.

Teach them it is the infallible word of God, and that it is the only source of infallibility, and that it is the final authority. Free them from bowing down to or before images made by the hands of men; make them free human beings, teaching them they possess the power of mind, if exercised, to understand God's word the same as you. Let the world stop preaching that God's commands are not to be obeyed to be saved; but rather that when God speaks man must obey if he is to be blessed. Stop your drinking, your gambling, close your dance halls, cease your staying away from Bible study with your children and from the Lord's day worship with the people of God; dress your women and girls in modest apparel, and I promise you we shall lie down for the first time in years and sleep the sleep of peace.

CONCLUSION

Yes, in the words of your Bible "We are without excuse" for we have the book that can guide us to realms of happiness here and to heaven after a while. Will you not come today believing in the Lord, Hebrews 11:6, repenting of your sins, Luke 24:46, and be baptized as commanded by your Lord, Matthew 28:18-20, and let Him save you as He has promised in Mark 16:16? Remember these are commands of our Lord. We know they are. If we obey them not, we are "without excuse" for we know they are the "truth of God." Change it not into "unrighteousness," my friends, is my prayer in His holy name, the name of Jesus Christ.

QUESTION

Some time ago a letter came from Illinois asking this question, "I heard over the radio that a number of denominations have united with what they called the 'United Church of Christ.' Now what I would like to know, does that mean the same as what the Abilene Church of Church represents?"

ANSWER

I am happy to answer this with a NO! We are no part of such a move. We believe what we preach. We believe it to be the truth of the Bible, and under no conditions would we compromise our faith. For instance, how could we compromise our faith on the question of baptism by immersion only and for the remission of sins to adults only? How could we compromise our faith in the teachings of the Bible that a child of God may so live here as to be lost with the doctrine that nothing a Christian may do, even to murder, can affect his eternal salvation? How could we compromise our faith in the plan of salvation, believing as we do, that all accountable persons must believe in the Lord, repent of their sins and be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of the Lord to be saved? No, we are no part of this organization. We stand as a unique group of people, being guided only by the teaching of the Bible.

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 513

November 26, 1961

Today, I am discussing the subject announced, "Speechless Before the King." It is taken from the reading found in Matthew 22, verses 2 through 13. It reads in part as follows, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come." They "made light of it," even to killing some of the king's servants. Now the king "sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city." He then commanded his servants "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." Both good and bad were united. The wedding was furnished with guests. Now verse 11 says, "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment." Then said the king, "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless."

EXPLANATION

There are many lessons to be gleaned from this setting: which lessons I do not have time to develop. This reading shows that those who were supposed to be the original guests were finally rejected because they were too preoccupied in their own personal affairs. They felt they could trample under their feet such a kind and loving invitation with no after effects. In this they made their tragic mistake and were destroyed by the king's army. Our world is so lulled to sleep today in the worldliness that it has not the time to heed the invitation of Christ our King; and it too shall be destroyed, if not here, those who fail to respect His gracious invitation shall at the coming of Christ "suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of his might" I Thesalonians 1:8-9).

WEDDING GARMENT

Our story has to do primarily with the guest who was not properly groomed. It is easily seen here that, though all were invited, both bad and good, not all were chosen. Only those who had on the "wedding garment." The context shows clearly that this guest knew he should have come properly dressed for this occasion. This being true when the king asked, "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" the record says, "And he was speech-

less." Now there must be a lesson intended for us in these words. It was not just to describe a certain marriage feast. Your Bible says the "kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding." Then in verse 14, your Bible says, "For many are called, but few are chosen." This applies to our time. From this it is plain to be seen (it seems to me) that our King invites all to be Christians, to sit down with Him to eat, having prepared as He has, all things. Nothing has been left undone; "All things are ready." But it is just as plain that some shall not be privileged to sit and eat with Him. We must have on the "wedding garment."

WEDDING GARMENT NOT SOILED

In our weddings, we are made to rejoice when we see our lovely daughters coming down the aisles, clothed in their beautiful wedding gowns with not a wrinkle in them, not a spot upon them, not a blemish, but perfect. We expect our guests to be attired in the proper fashion befitting such an occasion. Just so with our Master. This is a beautiful picture of what Christ expects of us when He comes for us. Many are the theories that men have tried to establish from this lesson, but ours shall deal primarily with what it meant **not** to have on the "wedding garment" when our Lord returns for His bride, the church. This may be a shocking discussion, but this occasion with us shall be one of the most serious experiences thus far in our whole experience of life.

WHO IS THE BRIDE?

Just here, it is fitting to ask the question, "What constitutes the bride of Christ? In John, chapter 3 and verse 28, John the Baptist says, "Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." Here it is clearly seen that Christ is the bridegroom. John refers to the bride of Christ. Just who or what constitutes this bride of Christ? Turn with me now to your Bible, this time to Romans, chapter 7, verse 4. Here Paul is writing to the church at Rome. Your Bible reads, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; . . ." Now, why dead to the law by the body of Christ? "That ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that should bring forth fruit unto God." Here the church at Rome was married to Christ. Without marriage, there was no bearing fruit unto God. Christ does not

have "fruit" by another bride. Again, in II Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 2, we read, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Here, there can be no question concerning the bride of Christ; the bride is the church. In Revelation 21, verse 9, your Bible reads, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." Therefore, the church is the bride of Christ, His WIFE.

HOW DRESSED FOR CHRIST?

This brings us to the proper dress or attire that the bride or wife of Christ should wear. You may try to lose this thought in a hundred theological quibbles as to when the marriage takes place or when the marriage supper shall be served, but my lesson today deals not with such. I am willing to believe Paul in Romans 7:4 where he states plainly that we must be married to Christ to bear fruit. Charge Christ with children out of spiritual wedlock if you so choose, but as for me, I will not!

THE ATTIRE

The attire of the bride of Christ is not a sloppy, unkept, dirty, unsightly gown. It is to be clean, attractive and becoming, always. The bride of Christ is to be properly dressed at all times, ready to meet the bridegroom at any moment He should appear. I shall begin the study of the attire one should wear to be accepted of the Lord by reading Psalms 146:8. "The Lord loveth the righteous." Since the church is the bride of Christ, I am sure, to love her, she shall have to be a righteous bride. In the 23rd Psalm, the greatest possibly of all the Psalms, we read, "The Lord is my shepherd"; and in verse 3, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." He does not lead His bride into beer joints, dance halls, or into gambling dens and dives of the world, and by such, cheapen her before the world that He is trying to save.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Now this same demand is made of His people in the New Testament. In Hebrews 3, verse 1, the Bible calls them "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling" . . . "Holy brethren!" In I Peter 2, verse 5, we read, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." What kind of house? a spiritual house. What kind of priesthood? A holy priesthood.

THE CHURCH AT ROME

To the church at Rome, the Holy Spirit writes through Paul, these words, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." This is the attire the bride of Christ at Rome was to wear. Her church leaders were not to lead them into drinking, gambling, dancing parties.

CHURCH IN CORINTH

Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth (which church in chapter 11, he says is "espoused unto Christ") has this to say in II Corinthians 5:21, "That we might be made the righteousness of God in him"; that is, in Christ.

WOMEN THE LORD COMMENDS

Let me read to you what the Lord demands of women here on earth. In I Timothy 2, verse 9, your Bible reads, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel." This is the kind of woman the Lord commends.

WILL SHE BE LIKE THIS?

Now that we see the Lord demands holiness of His bride, righteousness of her, modesty of her, let me picture the kind of woman or bride awaiting the coming of her righteous husband from heaven. When He returns for her, what do you think the Lord would do if He were greeted by a bride dressed in short shorts and halter with a cigarette hanging from the corner of her mouth, smoke coming out of both nostrils, and a beer can in one hand, sitting in a dance hall or night club, where they are drinking, dancing, gambling, even though it were in the name of religion? Think of Him taking a bride like that to Himself and carrying her away to adorn the righteous halls of heaven! One thing certain; if she does not look like that when He comes, she shall have to cease practicing such before He comes. This applies to both men and women for both go to make up the church, this bride, the wife of the Lord.

WHEN HE COMES

In Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 25-27, it says, the "Lord loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." This is the

bride that shall be presented to the Lord. In Revelation 3:4-5, the Lord, through John says, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and his holy angels." And yet, we are taught that a child of God cannot be lost! No wonder the prophet Jeremiah asked in chapter 2, verse 32, "Can a maid forget her ornaments or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number." When the world watches the bride of Christ, during His absence, flirting, and living with another man, which is the world, dominated by Satan, does she become the "light of the world"? Does she present the "righteousness of God" in her? Yes, she has forgotten her attire. Drinking, gambling, dancing with all their alluring attractions are trying to defile her.

WHAT SHALL BE THE RESULT?

I close now by asking this question: What shall be the result of such a defiled and corrupt bride? In our lesson we read the man without a wedding garment was "speechless." He was cast out! When his bride stands before him, if she be not properly attired, she shall stand before him "speechless" for she knows better. The Lord will present His bride to His Father, holy, clean, sanctified, and robed in a wedding gown of white, made white by the blood of Christ, the only cleansing power for sin. Every person in the church, that is a spot, a blemish, or wrinkle, shall be removed from this bride and "cast out"; and Christ shall enter heaven with those whose garments are not "defiled," for the Bible says in Revelation 3:4, "They are worthy."

Now to be received by the Bridegroom when He comes, we must be a member of His church, which is His bride, His wife. He is coming for her (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). There is but one way to be a part of this church, His bride. In Acts, chapter 2, verses 38 to 47, the Lord added only those to this church, this bride, who had repented of sins committed against Christ, the bridegroom, and whose penitent faith had surrendered to baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. The Bible gives no other way. Then His bride must "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ," (the "groom"). This is the kind of bride for which Christ, the Bridegroom, is returning. He is not coming for a drinking, gambling, dancing, cigarette-smelling bride, made coarse and rough by such dissipation, to present her to a righteous Father. He will have too much respect for heaven. Remember this applies to both men and women, for both make up this bride.

Our question is, When the Bridegroom comes for His bride, will you be a part of this bride with the proper wedding garment on? Or will you be like the man without the wedding garment, like the "bride who had forgotten her attire," and have to "stand speechless before the king"? My friends, where would the world go wrong in living as I have spoken today? This, churches of Christ are trying to get both men and women to do. Can we be a curse to our world? Think this over prayerfully and as a penitent believer be baptized into the church, the bride of Christ, is my prayer in the holy name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

QUESTION

From Indiana comes this question, "If I want to become a member of the church of Christ, will I have to be baptized again?"

ANSWER

Now this man's church sprinkles for baptism. Churches of Christ have no written creed to which we force people to subscribe. The Lord does the adding to His church. Those in the New Testament record who became members of the Lord's church were commanded by Peter in Acts 2:38 to "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Verse 47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." These were the first additions to the church as the result of the apostle's preaching. Now what they did to be added to this church by the Lord, all shall have to do, for God is no respecter of persons. Sprinkling for baptism is not to be found in your New Testament. The Bible plainly says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" and in Colossians 2:12, your Bible reads, "buried with him in baptism wherein also ye are risen with him." When one therefore is buried with his Master in baptism for the remission of sins, and risen with Him to walk this new life and then abides by the instructions left for the Lord's church, he becomes a member of it and remains in its fellowship. If not, he is not a member, nor can he remain in its fellowship.

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

Dudley, Mo.
Oct. 7, 1961

Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas
Dear Sirs:

I was very much interested in your program No. 503 about three weeks ago. I would very much like a copy of the message. You certainly have some inspiring programs.

Sincerely,
Mrs. E. B. B.

Wichita Falls, Texas
September 1, 1961

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed find check for \$5.00 for Herald of Truth. I am happy to sacrifice for this most wonderful program. Help me pray that it will continue on and on and reach out to many more lost souls. I feel that we, the members of the Lord's body are to a great extent responsible for the deplorable divided condition of the religious world. I want to especially thank Bro. Baxter and Bro. Harper for their wonderful lessons.

P.S. There should be a great deal more teaching of religious unity.

P. G.

In Christian love,
October 3, 1961

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I want to say thank you for the wonderful work you are doing for the cause of Christ Jesus our Lord. We are very happy the Herald of Truth came to Tyler. We enjoy it so much. I am enclosing a small check for \$15.00. Will help when I can, even so little, but all together, we will spread the gospel if we pray like Asa and Paul.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Mrs. J. R. W.

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